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CORRECTION ISSUED: 10/9/63, 9:30a.m. hmr

Control: 6387

Rec'd: October 8, 1963 6:19p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 6 MAY 1982

REVIEWED BY DATE

EDS or NET. DATE

(SECTION ONE OF TWO)

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FROM: Athens - CORRECTED PAGES 1 AND 2

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 563, October 8, 9 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 563, INFORMATION THESSALONIKI UNNUMBERED.

Reference: (A) EMBTEL 554; (B) Thessaloniki 39.

Former Prime Minister Caramanlis kicked off 1963 electoral campaign October 6 with speech in Thessaloniki before enthusastic crowd estimated by pro-ERE forces at 200,000 and by opposition at 35,000. CONGEN Thessaloniki estimates crowd at around 110,000.

Caramanlis hit hard at "unrelenting struggle" of CU, terming it attempt by "unscrupulous minority to blackmail authority;" and he attacked what he called CU's "slander" against King. He observed that in last two years he had learned "policy of moderation" towards CU did not pay off, and he stressed need for "radical changes" in Greek public life.

Caramanlis called for new 10-year program to being in 1965 which would bring full employment and rise in standard of living, and he emphasized need for further reform in education. This latter connection he pointed out improvements already made in education and emphasized four-fold increase in educational budget since 1950. Referring to achievements his administration, he noted that per capital income rose from$230 in 1955 to $400 in 1963, with prospects of reaching $500 by 1967. Concerning foreign policies, he stressed fact Greece belongs to West, and remarked Greece fully supports "painstaking" Western efforts "to establish understanding with opposite side," which he said Greece "sincerely wants."

However,

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Athens 563 POL 14 GREECE

However, Caramanlis' main attention was directed at what he described as the "irregularities" in country's public life. He repeatedly referred to his proposals for revision of constitution - introduced in Parliament last spring which he termed necessary to bring about "democratic revolution" essential for "survival our democratic regime." In reference to his disagreement with King last June over royal visit London, he commented: "I was obliged as you know...to be absent for months abroad. I am sure you all realize that I could not, without damage to our country, do otherwise." In conclusion Caramanlis appealed to Greek public to give him overwhelming majority "in order end political blackmail and threats."

Initial press reaction to speech predictable, with pro-ERE papers hailing it and "massive and wildly enthusiastic crowd," while opposition press played up "threatening" nature Caramanlis' remarks and allegedly small crowd. (Interestingly enough, Conservative afternoon paper, MESSIMVRINI, also stressed "uncompromising and intransient" nature Caramanlis' remarks, indicating rather lukewarm support ELENI papers giving Caramanlis campaign.)

Following Thessaloniki address, Caramanlis departed on tour Western Macedonia -- where he spoke to large crowds in Kastoria and Edhessa but to smaller one in Florina -- and following weekend will make series of speeches in Eastern Macedonia and Western Thrace. In his speeches in W. Macedonia Caramanlis hit out at "open or concealed" CU cooperation with Communists.

Papandreou to speak next Sunday in Thessaloniki with Markezinis speech there scheduled later in month.

Meanwhile, over the weekend there were a number significant political developments:

On Saturday October 5 Government announced its much-awaited measures to ensure honest elections. They include (1) disarming of

of TEA batallions in stages, to be completed by October 25; (2) temporary replacement gendarmerie commander Vadoulakis and Athens police Chief Rakintzis by two retired generals; (3) immediate recall all civil servants from temporary assignments; (4) ban hiring new civil servants and on loans or grants by Ministries to welfare organizations and (5) guarantee free circulation all newspapers and printed matter "contents of which do not infringe the law."

On same day, proposal by Communist-line EDA for formation "common front" all opposition parties rejected by both CU and Progressives, with former stating it refused "any form direct or indirect cooperation with EDA" while Progressives reaffirmed decision to run alone. EDA organ AVYI immediately attacked rejection and warned "unity will be achieved at the people's level." However, on October 7 EDA made new proposal for establishment joint CU-EDA tickets in districts having two seats or less.

Also on Saturday ERE, CU, and Progressives announced names their candidates in various electoral districts. ERE's list most complete, with names candidates in 45 of total 55 districts, while CU gave names in 36 districts. ERE's list excluded important districts Athens, Piraeus and Thessaloniki while CU omitted names Thessaloniki and Crete, indicating that discussion -- and controversy -- still going on within parties over these districts. Progressives gave names candidates in only 16 districts while EDA yet to release names any candidates. Announcement remainder of candidacies expected this week.

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Control: 6387
Rec'd: October 8, 1963
6:19 p.m.

FROM: Athens

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 563, October 8, 9 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

POL 14 GREECE

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GPO 930 500

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* As received, correction to follow.

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10/9/63 9:45 a.m.
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Control: 6376
Rec'd: October 8, 1963
6:07 p.m.

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FROM: Athens - CORRECTED COPY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 563, October 8, 9 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

1963 OCT 9 PM 4 25
NEA MESSAGE CENTER

POL 14

ACTION DEPARTMENT 563, INFORMATION TESSALONIKI UNNUMBERED.

Reference: (A) EMBTEL 554; (B) Thessaloniki 39.

There were no major surprises in list candidates and rumors of addition "major personalities" to CU ranks failed materialize although party did pick up additional Progressive deputy -- A. Manolopoulos, Kavalla -- in addition to Vassilatos reported REFTEL (A). While all CU 1961 deputies included its list, 8 deputies from previous Parliament including former Welfare Minister Stratos, missing from ERE list.

Comment: Fact large and enthusiastic crowd turned out in Thessaloniki for Caramanlis's speech, although not unexpected, undoubtedly gave boost in arm ERE campaign particularly in view fact Thessaloniki center Lambrakis "affair." Caramanlis, returning to political arena in his own Macedonia, used opportunity to strike back at detractors and indicated readiness to wage hard-hitting campaign. In this connection he deplored CU exploitation of "horrible Lambrakis crime" which he said encouraged international attacks on Greece. He emphasized that Justice going ahead on Lambrakis case and he noted that all parties had decried crime at time its occurrence.

Significant aspect of speech is attention devoted to education. Indication that Caramanlis determined to carry through much needed educational reforms shown by his pledge that if elected he would be personally responsible for seeing reforms implemented. Also significant is fact that Caramanlis apparently determined make

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POL 14 GREECE

make constitutional reform -- so dear to his heart-- major issue in 1963 campaign and to impress upon Greek public need for basic change in public life.

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Control: 6376
Rec'd: October 8, 1963
6:07 p.m.

FROM: Athens

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 563, October 8, 9 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

Pol-14

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Pol 14 Greece

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make constitutional reform -- so dear to his heart-- major issue in 1963 campaign and to impress upon Greek public need for basic change in public life.

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(#) Omission, correction to follow.

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